

THE
CHRONICLE
OF THE
KINGS
OF
ENGLAND,

Written in the Manner of the Ancient
JEWISH HISTORIANS.

By *NATHAN BEN SADDI,*
A PRIEST of the JEWS.

L O N D O N:
Printed for T. COOPER at the *Globe* in *Pater-noster*
Row. 1741.

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Now this I have chosen to do in the
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cient Jewish Historians, as being not
only the most concise, but the most
THE
PREFACE.

NATHAN BEN SADDI,
a Servant of God, of the House
of *Israel*, to all and every of his
Readers, whether *Jew* or *Gentile*,
Greeting.

Notwithstanding that many have
taken in hand to write the History
of

of *England*, it seemed good unto me also, most excellent Reader, to set forth in Order some Things that have happen'd since the Conquest of *William the Norman*.

Now this I have chosen to do in the Manner of our Forefathers, the ancient *Jewish* Historians, as being not only the most concise, but the most venerable Way of Writing.

Howbeit, I would not that thou shouldst be offended, or take in evil Part that I have adventured to imitate those sublime Originals: neither let it enter into thine Heart that I have done this Thing in Sport, or Wantonness of Wit; for verily I abound not therewith, as thou wilt undoubtedly perceive.

Ne ser-

P R E F A C E.

Nevertheless, in perusing this delectable History, thou wilt meet with abundant Matter both for Information and Amusement, and peradventure also for Instruction.

And it shall come to pass when thou readeſt of the foolish Kings that have ruled the Land, then shall thy Soul be troubled, and thou shalt say within thyself, How small a Portion of Sense sufficeth to govern a great Kingdom !

But when thou readeſt of the Kings that were wise and great, then shall thy Heart be glad, and thou shalt compare the passed Times with the present, and rejoyce therein, and laugh exceedingly.

More.

Mereover thou wilt find, that the End of the first was Bitterness and Shame, but the End of the last was Glory and Honour: These shall be set up as a Light unto Kings in all Ages; but Those as a Warning from Generation to Generation.



THE



THE CHRONICLE, &c.

I. *WILLIAM* the Conqueror.



OW it came to pass in the Year
One thousand sixty and six, in
the Month of *September*, on the
eighth Day of the Month, that
William of *Normandy*, surnam-
ed the Bastard, landed in *England*, and pitch-
ed his Tent in a Field near the Town of
Hastings.

Then *Harold* the King attended by all his
Nobles came forth to meet him with a nu-
merous Army, and gave him Battle.

And

B

And

And it was fought from the rising of the Sun even to the going down of the same.

But the Lord gave up *Harold* into the Hands of his Enemies, and he was pierced with an Arrow, and died in the Field of Battle, and his Army was routed with exceeding great Slaughter.

Then *William* the Bastard took on him the Royal Robes, and the Scepter and the Diadem, and was made King of *England*, and was called the Conqueror.

And he seized the Coffers of King *Harold*; and the Gold, and the Silver, and the precious Stones, and all the Treasures he distributed to his Followers.

And he built a strong Castle, and he fortified it with a Wall and a Ditch; and it is called the Tower of *London* unto this Day.

And he subdued the Land, and subjected it unto him: And that they might not rebell against him, he despoiled his Subjects of all manner of Instruments of War.

And he caused a Survey to be taken of all the Lands in the Kingdom, and how much appertained to each Person, which he wrote in a Book called Dooms-day Book.

And

And he raised a Tribute from every one, according to his Substance, and oppressed them greatly.

Moreover he made a Law, and caused it to be observed throughout the Kingdom, that at the Ringing of a Bell, all his Subjects, from the greatest even unto the least, should extinguish their Fires, and suffer no Light to appear in their Houses upon pain of Death.

So it was called the *Curfew* Bell; and at the Sound thereof the Lights were extinguished, and our Fathers slept in the Dark.]

These are the Acts of *William* the Bastard; who after he had reigned twenty and one Years, died, and was buried in his own Tomb at *Roan* in *Normandy*, and *Rufus* his Son reigned in his stead.

II. *WILLIAM RUFUS*.

NOW *Rufus* was thirty and one Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* twelve Years and ten Months, and his Mother's Name was *Matilda*.

And he was a very wicked Man, and his Heart was set to do evil continually: and he

contemned the Gods of his Fathers, and believed not : he banished also the Priests, and converted the sacred Revenues to his own Use.

Wherefore the Lord smote him with Sickness, and his Sickness seemed unto Death.

Then his Heart trembled within him, and he repented him of his Sin ; and he sent for the High Priest, and besought him, saying :

I have done evil in the sight of the Lord, in seizing the vacant Bishopricks ; wherefore now I pray thee, take back the Things which belong to the Church, that it may be well with me, and that my Soul may live.

Howbeit, when the Sickness left him, he forgot all that he had promised, and returned to his evil Ways.

Nevertheless he was a valiant Prince, and he fought against the *Welch*, and discomfited them, and drove them into the Mountains, and conquered the Southern Part of the Country.

And *Malcolm* also, King of the *Scots*, made War upon him ; but he slew him in Battle, and put his Army to Flight.

And in these Days were great Divisions in the Church, and *Urban* the Pope bethought himself how he might put an end to them ; and he sent
Messengers

Messengers to all the Princes of *Christendom*, saying, Behold now, O ye *Christian* Princes, the *Infidels* have taken the City *Jerusalem*, even the City of our God; they have possessed themselves of the Holy Land, and profaned the Sacred Places: Wherefore now I pray ye, let us unite together, and drive them from the Face of the Earth, to the end that the Holy City may be delivered from the Pollutions of Evil-doers, and from the Scorn of Unbelievers.

So all the *Christian* Princes united together and raised a numerous Army; and they distinguish'd themselves by a red Cross, which they wore on the upper Garment, wherefore this Expedition was called the *Crusade*: and they marched into *Palestine*, and besieged the Holy City, and took it.

And it came to pass in those Days that the Sea over-flowed its Banks, insomuch that great Part of the Lands of Earl *Godwin*, in *Kent*, were over-whelmed and lost in the Sea; and the Place is called *Godwin's Sands* unto this Day.

And *Rufus* builded a great Hall, the like of which had not been seen in *England*; the Length thereof was Two hundred and seventy

venty Feet, and the Breadth thereof was Seventy and four Feet; and he called it *Westminster-Hall*.

And it came to pass on a certain Day, as he hunted in the Forest which his Father had made, that he was slain with an Arrow; and his Body was carried in a Cart to the City of *Winchester*, and was buried there, and *Henry* his Brother reigned in his stead.

III. *HENRY* I.

NOW *Henry* was a learned Man, and a Prince of exceeding great Wisdom, in so much that he was surnamed *Beauclerk*: And he set himself to enact good Laws, and to govern his People wisely.

And he restored to the *English* the Privilege of having Lights in their Houses, after the ringing of the *Curfew* Bell.

And he granted a Charter, whereby he confirmed the Rights of the Church, and relinquished his Claim to the vacant Bishopricks: And he forgave all Debts due to the Crown, all

Offences

Offences committed before his Coronation, and confirmed the Statutes of *Edward* the Confessor.

Moreover, he ordained that the Length of his own Arm should be the Standard Measure throughout the Kingdom, and it is called a Yard unto this Day.

And he instituted the High-Court of Parliament, and assembled them together in the City of *Salisbury*: he appointed also the Watch.

Now the rest of the Acts of King *Henry*, the Lampreys that he ate, and the Children that he begat, are they not written in the Book of *Baker* the Historian?

And *Henry* reigned over *England* thirty and five Years, and he died, and *Stephen* Earl of *Boloign* reigned in his stead.

IV. S T E P H E N.

AND *Stephen* was a goodly Man, and a Man of great Valour; howbeit, as he was not the rightful Heir, he bethought himself how he might best obtain the Affections of the People; and he sought by all manner of Ways to please them.

To

To the Nobles he gave leave to build them Forts and Castles on their own Lands ; he won Favour with the Priests by exempting them from Temporal Authority ; the Gentry he pleased with leave to hunt in his Forests ; and he pleased the People with freeing them from Taxes and Impositions.

Nevertheless his Reign was full of Trouble, the Sword was not sheathed, neither ceased he from War all the Days of his Life.

And now the Sin of Laziness began to prevail in the Land, and the great Men and the Nobles made unto themselves Coaches and Chariots, and were drawn through the Streets of the City with Horses ; moreover, their Pride increased daily, insomuch that in process of Time they were carried on the Shoulders of Men, and blushed not.

And *Stephen* reigned over *England* eighteen Years and nine Months, and he died, and *Henry Plantagenet* reigned in his stead.

V. H E N R Y II.

AND Henry was twenty and two Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* four and thirty Years and eight Months, and his Mother's Name was *Maud*.

And he chose unto himself wise and discreet Counsellors of State, he appointed learned and able Men to reform Abuses in the Laws, he disbanded also the foreign Army which his Father had kept, and utterly destroyed the Castles and Forts which the Nobles and Prelates had built in his Reign.

And it came to pass, that grievous Complaints were made unto the King of divers cruel Offences and enormous Crimes committed by the Clergy, occasioned by their being exempted in the former Reign from the Civil Power, and encouraged, as was said, by the Connivance of *Becket* the High Priest.

And the King assembled the Priests and the Elders together, and he said unto them, Is it not meet that this Law should be abolished? And they answered him and said, It is meet.

C

Then

Then *Becket* the High Priest stood up, and opposed the King with great Haughtiness, and refused his Assent.

And the Wrath of the King was kindled against him, and he caused him to be accused of divers Crimes and Misdemeanors, and he was condemned by the Priests and the Elders, as a perjur'd Man and a Traytor.

Then *Becket* fled from the Presence of the King, and became a Fugitive in the Land of *Gaul*.

And it came to pass after some time, that the King was reconciled to *Becket*, and he sent for him, and took him again into Favour, and restored unto him all the Honours that he before enjoy'd.

Howbeit the Pride of his Heart was not a jot abated, he burned with Choler, and cast about how he might revenge himself of his Enemies.

And he suspended some, and some he excommunicated, and became in all respects more insolent than before.

Then certain of the Priests and the Nobles came unto the King, and complained of *Becket*, saying,

saying, O King! the Man whom thou forgavest, is now more wicked than he was before, his Crimes are increased seven-fold.

Then the King waxed exceeding wroth, and his Countenance changed, and he cry'd out, O wretched Man that I am, who shall deliver me from this turbulent Priest?

Now this Saying was heard by certain of the King's Servants, and they went forth privily, and finding the High Priest at the Altar, they fell on him and slew him, and dashed out his Brains at the Foot of the Altar, and his Blood stained the holy Place.

And the Priests were inflamed with Fury, and they sent unto the Pope, accusing the King for the Murder of *Becket*.

And when the Messengers came into the Presence of the Pope, they bowed down with great Reverence before him, saying,

‘ † O most holy Father! to whom all Power
‘ in Heaven and Earth is given, who art appoint-
‘ ed over Empires and Nations to bind their Kings
‘ in Chains, and their Nobles in Fetters of Iron;

† These are the very Words that were used in several of their Addresses on that Occasion.

' behold and see how the Boar of the Wood hath
 ' rooted up the Vineyard of the Lord of Sa-
 ' baoth ! If the Rage of Tyranny shall embrue
 ' with Blood the *Sanctum Sanctorum*, what
 ' Place shall be safe ? Wherefore, O most mild
 ' Keeper of the Walls of *Jerusalem*, arm all the
 ' Ecclesiastical Power you may, unsheath the
 ' Sword of *Peter*, and revenge the Death of this
 ' holy Martyr, whose Blood cryeth out for all the
 ' Church, and whose divine Glory is already
 ' reveal'd in Miracles.

And the Pope was moved exceedingly, and he
 sent unto the King, commanding him to purge
 himself of the Crime laid to his Charge.

And *Henry* protested his Innocence, but it a-
 vailed not : the Words he had spoken testified
 against him, and he was compell'd to expiate his
 Fault by a Penance at the Tomb of *Becket*.

Now the Penance enjoyned was this : he
 cloathed himself in Woolen, and journeyed till
 he came within Sight of the Church wherein
Becket was slain.

Then he alighted from his Horse, and pulling
 his Shoes from his Feet, he walked barefoot till
 he came to the Tomb where the holy Man was
 laid,

laid, and he prostrated himself before the Shrine, and prayed, and offer'd rich Gifts.

Moreover he uncloathed himself and received Discipline from the Hands of the Monks; and they strake him with Rods, that the Blood ran from his Shoulders.

And the Fame of *Becket* waxed great, and he was canonized, and Miracles were wrought at his Tomb.

And of the Miracles that he wrought, is it not recorded, how he rose from the Coffin and lighted the Candles at his own Burial? and when the Funeral Ceremony was ended, how he lifted up his Head and blessed the People?

He that believeth, let him believe still; and he that doubteth, let him doubt and be damn'd.

And *Henry* was a great Prince, and he conquer'd the Kingdom of *Ireland*, and added it to his Dominions.

Now the rest of the Acts of King *Henry*, the Concubine that he kept in the Bower of *Woodstock*, and how she was poisoned by *Eleanor* the Queen, are they not written in the Book of the *Chronicles* of the Kings of *England*?

And *Henry* slept with his Fathers, and *Richard* his Son reigned in his stead.

VI. RICHARD I.

AND it came to pass at the Coronation of *Richard*, that certain of the *Jews* pressing in to see the Ceremony, were set upon by the People with great Rage and Fury, and many of them were murder'd.

And it was rumour'd abroad, that the King had commanded that all the *Jews* should be destroyed; and the Tumult increased exceedingly, and the *Jews* were destroyed in several Cities of *England* with a terrible Slaughter.

And *Richard* the King prepared a great Army for the Holy Land; and to support this Expedition, he extorted Money from his Subjects by all manner of Ways, and the Priests were instructed to preach up the great Merit of this pious Undertaking, and the Duty of supporting it.

And he set sail for the Holy Land, with the richest and most powerful Fleet that the *English* had ever seen; and he came to an Anchor at *Messina* in *Sicily*, on the three and twentieth Day of the Month *September*.

And

And *Tancred* the Bastard, then King of *Sicily*, had imprisoned *Joanna* the Sister of *Richard*, whom he had taken to Wife : King *Richard* therefore assembled his Forces together, assaulted the City, and took it.

And in his Way to *Jerusalem* he conquered also the Island of *Cyprus*.

And he overcame *Saladin* the *Turk* in many Battles, and he took from him three thousand Camels, and four thousand Horses and Mules : he took also the Towns of *Ascalon*, *Joppa*, and *Cæsarea*, and behaved in all things with exceeding great Courage, insomuch that the Glory of the King of *England* eclipsed the Glory of all the Christian Princes.

And it came to pass after he returned from the Holy Land, as he sat at Meat in his Palace, Word was brought unto him that *Philip* King of *France* had laid Siege to one of his Towns.

Then *Richard* the King was exceedingly enraged, and he swore in his Wrath he would not turn his Face till he came to the Army of *Philip*.

And he caused the Wall of the Room where he was sitting to be broken down, and he assembled

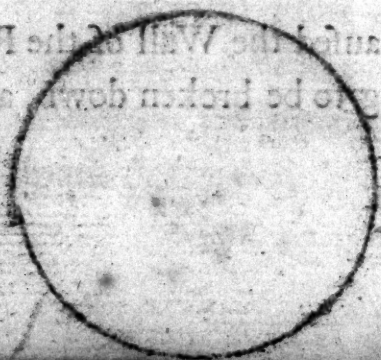
bled his Army together, and came up with the *French*; and the Lord fought for him, and he discomfited the Army of *Philip*, and put them to flight, and he overthrew with his own Hand three of the most hardy Knights of *France*.

Wherefore he took for his Motto these Words, *Dieu & mon Droit* :: and this Device is used by the Kings of *England* unto this Day.

And a certain Outlaw named *Robin Hood* infested the Forest of *Sherwood* in those Days; in-
somuch that none might pass that way without his Leave.

Howbeit he was a charitable Thief, giving unto the Poor what he took from the Rich; and the Blood of Man he did not shed.

And *Richard* reigned over *England* nine Years and nine Months, and he was wounded with an Arrow at the Siege of the Castle of *Chalons*, and the Wound mortified, and he died thereof, and *John* his Brother reigned in his stead.



VII. *JOHN.*

AND *John* came not to the Crown by Hereditary Right, he received it from the Hands of *Hubert* the High Priest, who, in his Oration before the Assembly of the People, declared, that by all Reason, divine and human, none ought to succeed in the Kingdom, but who should be for the Worthiness of his Virtues universally chosen by the People, as was this Man.

Nevertheless his Virtues are not recorded, neither do we read of this his Election: peradventure it was a Lye.

And it came to pass that *Hubert* the High Priest died, and *Grey* Bishop of *Norwich* was elected by King *John* to succeed him.

But this Election was opposed by the Pope in favour of *Stephen Langton* a Cardinal, whom when *John* refused to admit, a Quarrel ensued betwixt the Pope and the King; insomuch that the whole Nation was laid under an Interdict, the King was excommunicated, his Subjects were absolved from their Obedience, and all divine Ordinances ceased, the Burying-places were shut

up, the Dead were cast out as Dogs, and remained unburied upon the Face of the Earth.

Howbeit this Severity brake not the Spirit of *John*, nor humbled him a jot.

And in his Wrath he sware, by the Teeth of God, he would be revenged on the Pope and on all that took part with him.

Accordingly he banished the Bishops from the Kingdom, and confiscated the Lands and Goods of all the Priests that obey'd the Interdict.

Now when the Pope perceived the Stubbornness of *John*, and that the roaring of his Bulls availed not ; he sent Messengers unto *Philip* the King of *France*, and they came unto the King, and they address'd him, saying :

O *Philip*, thus saith the Pope : As thou regardest the Remission of thy Sins, assemble now thy Army together, and drive out King *John* from the Throne of *England*, and thou and thy Sons after thee shall possess it for ever.

And *Philip* rais'd an Army, and prepared to invade *England*.

Then *John* was sore troubled, and his Heart smote him, and he humbled himself before *Pandolphus* the Legate of the Pope, and he took
his

his Crown from off his Head, and laid it at the Feet of *Pandolphus*.

He resigned also his Kingdom unto the Pope, and he took an Oath that he and his Successors should hold it from the See of *Rome*, at the annual Tribute of a Thousand Marks of Silver.

Thus ended the Contest betwixt the Spiritual and Temporal Sword : And *John* returned to the Bosom of the Church, and continued a dutiful Son all the Days of his Life.

Wherefore the Holy Father supported him against his Subjects in all Manner of Wickedness and Oppression.

And he vexed them daily with new Taxes and Impositions, insomuch that the Barons and great Men of the Kingdom at length made War against him, in behalf of their Rights and Liberties.

Now these were called the Barons Wars, and the Sword of Justice prevailed, and they compelled the King to confirm their ancient Privileges, and he signed a Charter of Rights, which is called *Magna Charta* unto this Day.

Thus wicked Princes are sometimes the Instruments of Good to a People whom the Lord loveth.

Now the rest of the Acts of King *John*, the * Bridge that he built, and his † Blasphemy on the Buck, are they not recorded in the Book of *Baker* the Historian?

And *John* reigned over *England* eighteen Years and five Months, and he died, and *Henry* his Son reigned in his stead.

VIII. HENRY III.

AND *Henry* was nine Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* fifty and five Years, and his Mother's Name was *Isabel*.

Now the Acts of King *Henry*, and all the foolish Things that he did, behold they are written in the Book of *Speed* the Historian.

* *London* Bridge, which was before of Wood, being burnt down in this Reign, it was then rebuilt with Stone as it now remains.

† It is said, that being a hunting one Day, at the opening of a fat Buck: See, said he, how this Deer hath prosper'd, and how fat he is! and yet I dare swear he never heard Mass in his Life.

He

He that hath Patience to read, let him read.

And *Henry* liv'd all the Days of his Life, and he died, and *Edward* his Son reigned in his stead.

IX. *EDWARD* I.

AN D the Lord pitched his Tabernacle in the Heart of King *Edward*, and he became a great Prince, and was called *Long-shanks*.

And he conquer'd the Kingdom of *Wales*, and overthrew *Lewellen* the King in Battle, and slew him, and cut off his Head and crowned it with Ivy, and set it upon the Tower of *London* as a Terror to *Wales*.

And great Fear came upon all *Welchmen*, and they submitted themselves unto *Edward*, and the two Nations became as one People unto this Day.

And it came to pass that *Alexander* King of *Scotland* died, and great Contentions arose between the Lords *Baliol* and *Bruce* who should be King.

And the Matter was refer'd unto *Edward*, and he gave it in favour of *Baliol*, and *Baliol*

was

was made King, and did Homage unto *Edward* for his whole Kingdom.

And *Edward* the King treated King *Baliol* with great Haughtiness, and summon'd him to appear before him on every little Complaint.

Wherefore the Anger of *Baliol* was kindled against him, and his Heart swelled with Indignation, and he sought how he might cast off the Yoke which galled his Neck.

And he sent Messengers unto the Pope, and got himself absolved from the Oaths he had taken to King *Edward*, and renounced his Sovereignty.

Then *Edward* the King rais'd an Army and marched against him, and the Lord gave up *Baliol* into the Hands of his Enemies, and he was taken Prisoner, and carry'd to the Tower of *London*.

And *Edward* conquer'd the Kingdom of *Scotland*, and subjected it unto him: and he burnt the Records of the Kingdom, and he seized the Crown, and the Scepter, and all the Regalia, and brought them away.

And the Stone also which was *Jacob's Pillow*, and the Chair of Wood which enclosed it, and it is the Coronation Chair unto this Day.

And

And *Edward* the King enacted divers good Laws and useful Ordinances: and he laid great Fines on many of his Judges and other Magistrates for their Corruption; and he raised from their Crimes two hundred and thirty six thousand Marks.

He banished also the *Jews*, to the Number of fifteen thousand, and confiscated their Goods.

And *Edward* reigned over *England* thirty and four Years, seven Months, and twenty Days; and he died, and *Edward* his Son reigned in his stead.

X. *EDWARD* II.

NOW *Edward* was a wicked Prince, and did that which was Evil in the Sight of the Lord.

And he departed from the Worship of his Fathers, and made unto himself two Idols: and the Name of the one was *Gaveston*, and the Name of the other was *Spencer*.

And he set them up in his high Places, and commanded them to be worshiped.

Howbeit certain of the Nobles and great Men of the Kingdom refused to bow down before

before the Idols, which *Edward* the King had set up.

And great Tumults ensued, and the Nobles rose up against the King, and reprov'd him, saying : O King, the Gods which thou hast set up are Idols, which we nor our Fathers ever knew, neither will we worship.

Moreover they plucked them down from their high Places, and dashed them in pieces, and utterly destroyed them.

Nevertheless the King repented not, neither turned he from the Evil of his Ways ; wherefore they took from him the Crown, and the Scepter, and the Royal Robes, and they deposed him from the Government of the Kingdom, after he had reigned over *England* nineteen Years, six Months and fifteen Days ; and *Edward* his Son reigned in his stead.

XI. *EDWARD* III.

AN D *Edward* was fourteen Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* fifty Years, and his Mother's Name was *Isabella*.

And she took upon her the Government of the Kingdom during the Infancy of her Son ;

and her Heart lusted after Idols, and after all the Abominations of her Husband.

And she made unto herself an Idol, and called its Name *Mortimer*; and she fell down before it, and worshiped with great Zeal, Day and Night.

Howbeit when *Edward* the King became of Age, he was greatly offended at the Abominations of his Mother: wherefore he put her in Prison, and he plucked down the Idol which she had set up, and he hung it on a Tree, even the Tree of *Tyburn*.

And *Edward* became a great and mighty King, and begat a Son, and called him after his own Name: moreover he was afterwards surnamed the *Black Prince*, and he waxed strong and valiant, and became a mighty Warriour in the Land.

And he fought the Battles of his Father, and the Arm of the Lord was with him, and he conquered the Kingdom of *France*, and took Prisoner the King thereof, with his Son and many of the Nobles.

And *Edward* the King took on him the Sovereignty of *France*, and he quarter'd the Arms

of the Kingdom; and his Successors are called Kings of *France* unto this Day.

And the *Black Prince* restored also to his Kingdom *Peter* King of *Castile*, and defeated his Enemies.

And his Name became great over all the Earth, and the Princes thereof sought his Friendship.

Howbeit, as it is written of old, *the Race is not to the swift, nor the Battle to the strong*, a Distemper took him, and he died in the forty and sixth Year of his Age; and the Glory of *Edward* his Father from that time forth diminished.

In these Days lived thilk grete Poet, hight *Geoffery Chaucere*, the Fader of *Englisch* Poesie, whose Workis ben ritten in Rime, and imprinted in a Boke, yclyped the Workis of Maister *Geoffery Chaucere*; and he smothed the Tonge of his Contrie, and his Fame is woxen grete in the Lond.

Now the rest of the Acts of King *Edward*, and the noble Order of the Garter that he instituted, behold they are written in the Book of *Asbmole* the Herald.

And *Edward* reigned over *England* fifty Years, and he died, and *Richard* his Grandson reigned in his stead.

XII. *RICHARD II.*

AND *Richard* was a wicked Prince, and did that which was evil in the Sight of the Lord, oppressing the People, and loading them with grievous Impositions.

And he laid a Tax on the Heads of all his Subjects from fifteen Years old and upwards, of what Sex, or Condition soever, which was called the Poll-Tax, and it was collected with great Strictness and Severity.

And it came to pass, that one of the Tax-gatherers came to the House of a certain Tyler at the Town of *Darford* in *Kent*, commonly called *Wat* the Tyler, and demanded the Tax for one of his Daughters.

And *Wat* the Tyler said unto him, Nay verily, but thou shouldst not demand the Tax of my Daughter, for the Maiden is not yet fifteen Years old.

Howbeit the Tax-gatherer believed not the Words of her Father, for the Virgin was fair and comely to look on.

Wherefore he stooped down, and put his Hand beneath the Garments of the Maiden, to see if

peradventure the Signs of her Womanhood might not appear; and he discovered her Nakedness.

And the Virgin was covered with Shame, infomuch that she spake not a Word.

But the Impudence of the Thing incensed her Father, and his Indignation kindled against the Officer, and he had a Hammer in his Hand, with which he strake him on the Head that his Brains came out.

And immediately a great Tumult arose, and all the People defended the Action of *Wat* the Tyler, and praised his Courage: moreover they chose him for their Captain, and determined to abolish the Tax.

And they marched in a Body and encamped on *Black-Heath*, and he was joined there by *Jack Straw*; and their Number encreased to an hundred Thousand Men.

And a certain Priest named *Ball*, was Chaplain to the Army, and he preached to the Multitude from these Words,

*When Adam dalve and Eve span,
Who was then a Gentleman?*

From hence he taught them that all Men were born equal, that it was never the Design

sign of Heaven that one part of Mankind should be the Slaves and Vassals of the other; and therefore exhorted them to destroy the Nobility, the Clergy, the Magistrates, and all who pretended to lord it over them.

With these pious Resolutions they marched to *London*, and encamp'd on *Tower-Hill*, plundering and burning the Houses of all whom they thought their Enemies.

And they set fire to the Temple, and burnt and destroyed the Writings of all the Lawyers; they burned also the Palace and all the rich Furniture of the Duke of *Lancaster* in the *Savoy*.

And they dragged from the Churches and from the Altars many who had fled for Refuge, and slew them in the Streets.

And they strake off the Head of *Simon Sudbury* Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and *Hales* the High Treasurer, and many more on *Tower-Hill*.

Then the King sent Messengers unto them, desiring to know what they would have: and *Wat* the Tyler demanded to speak with the King in Person.

Then *Richard* the King, attended by many of his Nobles, and the Mayor and the Alder-

men of *London*, went forth to meet him, and they met him in *Smithfield*.

And he behaved with great Arrogance, and his Demands were so extravagant that the King knew not what Answer to make unto him.

Moreover he commanded the Squire who held the Sword of the King to deliver it to him; howbeit the Squire took Courage and refused to deliver it, saying, The Sword of a King would ill become the Hand of a Knave.

Now *Wat* the Tyler was vexed at this Saying, and he advanced with his Sword to slay the Squire.

Then *William Walworth*, the Mayor of *London*, was exceedingly enraged at the Insolence of the Tyler, and he stepped forth, and smote him with a Dagger that he died: Wherefore the Dagger was added to the Arms of the City.

Thus ended the Insurrection of *Wat Tyler* and *Jack Straw*; and all the Rabble returned each to his own House.

And *Richard* the King made unto himself Idols, as *Edward* the Second his Predecessor had done: and the Thing which he did, displeased the People, and they deposed him from the Government; and they took the Crown

Crown from off his Head, and put it on the Head of *Henry Duke of Lancaster*, the Son of *John of Gaunt*.

XIII. H E N R Y IV.

AND *Henry* was thirty and three Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* thirteen Years, five Months, and one and twenty Days.

And he did that which was evil in the Sight of the Lord, as most of his Fathers had done.

Howbeit he made an Act for burning of Hereticks; and they that could not believe as the Church commanded, were tied to a Stake till the Flames consumed them: and for this he was called by the Priests and the Monks, the Writers of that Time, a pious and religious Prince.

And he was seized with an Apoplexy, and he died, and *Henry* his Son reigned in his stead.

XIV. H E N R Y V.

AND *Henry* was a valiant Prince, and a great Warriour.

And he laid claim to the Crown of *France*, and marched into the Kingdom with an Army of
of

of thirty Thousand Men, taking the Town of *Harfleur*, with many other strong Towns,

And he defeated the *French* Army at the Battle of *Agincourt*, and slew to the Number of sixty Thousand Men. And the Lord fought for him, and the whole Kingdom was given into his Hands, and he appointed *John* Duke of *Bedford* the Regent thereof.

And it came to pass that the Doctrines of *Wickliffe* the Preacher, who had been condemned by the Church as an Heretick, began now to spread over *England*, and prevailed much.

And the Tenets he taught were these : That the Bread and Wine in the Sacrament of the Altar, still continued to be Bread and Wine after the Consecration of the Priest ; that the Worship of Images was Idolatry and a great Sin ; that Pilgrimages, Penances, and Confessions to the Priests were not at all necessary to Salvation, but only a good Life.

Now these were esteemed detestable Doctrines, and damnable Heresies.

And great Fear came upon all Priests, lest the Eyes of the People should be opened, and their Craft exposed : wherefore they besought

the

the King that he would join with him in extirpating out of the Land all who should teach or profess these dangerous Truths.

And Sir *John Oldcastle* Lord *Cobham*, a Man of Virtue and great Reputation, with Sir *Robert Aton*, and many others, were hanged and burnt in *Smithfield* for professing the same.

Thus Truth was defeated, and Ignorance again prevailed in the Land; the Priests and the *Levites* triumphed, and the Minds of the People were cloathed in Darkness, and fed with Error.

Now the rest of the Acts of King *Henry*, and all that he did, are they not written in the Books of the *Chronicles* of the Kings of *England*?

And *Henry* reigned over *England* thirty and four Years, and he died, and *Henry* his Son reigned in his stead.

XV. H E N R Y VI.

AND *Henry* was eight Months old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* thirty and nine Years, and his Mother's Name was *Catharine*.

And in him was fulfilled what was written of old, *Woe to that Nation whose King is a Child*: for he proved a weak and unfortunate Prince, losing by his Misconduct all that *Henry* his Father had won.

And in these Days there appeared a false Prophetess, named *Joan of Arc*; and she called herself the *Maid of God*, and pretended to be sent from Heaven to deliver the Kingdom of *France* from the *English* Yoke.

And she wrought Miracles, and performed many wonderous Things.

She rais'd also the Siege of *Orleans*, and defeated the *English* wherever she came, inso-much that the *French* believed her to be conducted by the Finger of God; but the *English* thought her sent from the Devil, and the Soldiers began to be terrified at her Presence.

Howbeit she was at length taken by the *English* at the City of *Roan* in *Normandy*; and she was convicted of Witchcraft, and they burnt her there, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Prophet, *Thou shalt not suffer a Witch to live*.

In this Reign began the cruel War betwixt the two Houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, where Brother fought with Brother, the Father against his Son and the Son against his Father, till the Rivers flow'd with the Blood thereof, and Rage and Slaughter made desolate the Land.

At length *Edward Plantagenet* Duke of *York*, having overthrown the King in many Battles and taken him Prisoner, deposed him from the Government, and was crowned King of *England*.

XVI. *EDWARD IV.*

AND *Edward* was nineteen Years old when he came to the Crown, and he was tall and well favour'd, and of an exceeding graceful Presence.

Moreover he was a Prince of great Courage and Wisdom, and he set himself to enact good Laws, and to reform the Abuses in his Government.

And he sat in the Court of Justice three Days himself, that he might be a Witness how his Laws were executed.

And many more good Qualities had *Edward*; howbeit he lusted after Women exceedingly, and he was a gallant Prince, and young and handsome to look on; wherefore the Hearts of the Ladies were in his Hand.

And it came to pass that *Matthew Shore*, a Goldsmith in *London*, had taken to Wife the most beautiful Virgin in all the City.

And the Fame of her Beauty reached the Ears of the King, and he disguised himself as a Merchant, and went to the House of *Shore*, pretending to buy Jewels.

And when he saw how exceeding fair she was, even beyond what Fame had reported unto him, his Heart was smitten with Love, and he burned to enjoy her.

Wherefore he discovered himself, and took her home to his Bed, and she lived in Adultery with him all the Days of his Life.

In his Reign was born *Thomas Parr*, of the County of *Salop*, who lived during the Reign of ten Kings, even to the Days of King *Charles I.* when he died, being an hundred fifty and two Years old.

Moreover he did Penance for the Sin of Fornication at the Age of an hundred Years.

And

And *Edward* reigned twenty and three Years, and he died, and was buried in his own Tomb at *Windſor*, and *Edward* his Son reigned in his ſtead.

XVII. *EDWARD V.*

AND *Edward* was eleven Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* nine Weeks and three Days, and was murder'd in the Tower by his Uncle *Richard*, the crooked Duke of *Glouceſter*.

XVIII. *RICHARD III.*

AND *Richard* took on him the Government of the Kingdom, and ſet the Crown upon his own Head.

And in order to clear his Way to the Throne, and ſecure to himſelf the Poſſeſſion thereof, he murder'd all who ſtood in his Way.

Wherefore the Anger of the Lord was kindled againſt him, and he ſmote him by the Hand of *Henry* Earl of *Richmond*, of the Houſe of *York*, and he died in the Field of Battle, even *Boſworth* Field.

Thus ended the War betwixt the two Houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, after twelve pitch'd Battles had been fought, in which there were slain two Kings, one Prince, ten Dukes, two Marquesses, twenty one Earls, twenty seven Lords, two Viscounts, one Lord Prior, one Judge, one hundred and thirty three Knights, four hundred and forty one Esquires, and eighty four thousand nine hundred ninety and eight private Soldiers.

And they took the Crown from the Head of King *Richard*, and put it on the Head of *Henry* Earl of *Richmond*; and all the Army shouted for Joy, and cried out, *Long live King Henry the Seventh.*

And the Body of *Richard* was found in the Field of Battle, and they laid it on a Horse, and brought it to the City of *Leicester*, and it was buried there, and *Henry* of *Richmond* reigned in his stead.

XIX. . H E N R Y VII.

NOW *Henry* was a wise and politick Prince, and he set himself by all manner of Ways to secure the Throne to himself and his Successors for ever.

And

And he extorted from his Subjects great Sums of Money, and filled his Coffers, and the whole Study of his Life was to heap up Riches.

To this End he made use of two Men, and the Name of the one was *Empson*, and the Name of the other was *Dudley*.

And he gave them Power and Authority to plunder and oppress his Subjects; and they exercised all manner of Injustice upon them, accusing the Innocent of Crimes, and amercing and fining them in great Sums without Trial, converting Law and Justice into Rapine and Cruelty.

Now whether it were out of an Affectation of State and Grandeur, or peradventure that he feared some sudden Attempt upon his Person, (for he was not beloved of the People) he appointed a Band of tall Men to attend him, called the Yeomen of the Guard, which all the Kings of *England* since have kept unto this Day.

And in his Reign there arose two Impostors one after the other, laying claim to the Crown of *England*.

And the Name of the one was *Simmel*, a Baker's Son; and the Name of the other was
Perkin

Perkin Warbeck; each pretending to be *Richard* Duke of *York*, Brother to King *Edward* the Fifth.

Howbeit the first was quickly suppress'd, and after having been crown'd King in *Dublin*, had the Honour to be made King *Henry's* Turnspit.

As to the other, after many Honours done him in the Courts of *France*, *Spain* and *Scotland*, as a Prince of the Royal Blood, he was at last advanced to the Pinnacle of *Tyburn*.

And in these Days a strange Disease arose, and was called the Sweating Sickness; and it continued for the space of a Month, and swept away great Numbers.

But woe unto you Whoremongers, Adulterers, and Fornicators, and woe unto you Harlots and Street-walkers, that lie in wait for Prey, and spread your Nets in every Corner; for a Disease * hath stricken ye thro' the Reins, and the Heat of your Lusts shall burn ye up.

Now the rest of the Acts of King *Henry*, and the magnificent Chapel that he built, are they not written in the Book of *Bacon* the Historian?

* In this Reign the Pox was first known in *England*.

And

And *Henry* reigned over *England* twenty and three Years and eight Months, and he died, and *Henry* his Son reigned in his stead.

XX. HENRY VIII.

AND *Henry* was eighteen Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* thirty and eight Years, and his Mother's Name was *Elizabeth*.

And he gat the Love of his Subjects in the Beginning of his Reign, by causing to be executed as Traytors and Oppressors, those wicked Instruments of his Father, *Empson* and *Dudley*.

Moreover he won favour in their Eyes, by spending amongst them in Balls and Shews, and sumptuous Feasts, those immense Treasures which had been drained from them, and hoarded up in the Coffers of his Father.

And in these Days the Iniquity of the Popedom was arrived at its full height ; infomuch that Indulgences for all manner of Crimes were publickly sold for Money ; and all kinds of People, how vile and profligate soever, were promis'd everlasting Happiness on purchasing them.

Now the Impiety of these things provok'd the Indignation of *Martin Luther*, and he expos'd the Absurdity of them in many Books. Moreover, he censured the Usurpation of the Pope, and made a mock of his Authority.

Then *Henry* the King, in the Zeal of his Heart, wrote an Answer to *Martin Luther*, defending the Pope; and from henceforth he and his Successors are honoured with the Title of *Defender of the Faith*.

Howbeit he afterwards threw off the Pope's Authority, and departed from many of the Errors of the Church of *Rome*.

Wherefore the Thunder of the Pope was levell'd against him, and he was excommunicated; his Subjects also were absolv'd from their Obedience, and all the Princes of *Europe* were excited to make War upon him.

But *Henry* was beloved at home, and feared abroad; wherefore the Thunder of the Pope was despised; neither was he terrified with all the fiery Bolts of his Wrath.

And *Henry* made unto himself a great Idol, the Likeness of which was not in Heaven above, nor in the Earth beneath. And he reared up
his

his Head unto the Clouds, and extended his Arm over all the Land.

His Legs also were as the Posts of a Gate, or as an Arch stretched forth over the Doors of all the publick Offices in the Land; and whosoever went out, or whosoever came in, passed beneath, and with idolatrous Reverence lift up their Eyes, and kissed the Cheeks of the Postern.

And all the People both small and great fell down before him and worshiped; for they feared his Power.

Priests also and Bishops brought him Water to wash, and Dukes and Nobles held the Towel.

Howbeit he fell down from the Pinnacle of his Greatness, and was dashed in pieces, even as a Potter's Vessel. Wherefore let him that standeth, take heed lest he fall.

And *Henry* was a gracious King, but a Tyrannical Husband.

And he took unto himself six Wives, but they pleased him not; wherefore he accused them of Incontinence and divers Crimes, and put them away. Moreover, he beheaded some,

and some he put in prison, and he dealt cruelly with them.

And it came to pass, when a certain Priest in one of his Sermons defended the King in this Matter, that all the Women of the Town rose up against him, and they stoned him with Stones, and drove him from amongst them.

Now the rest of the Acts of King *Henry* and all that he did, are they not written in the Books of the *Chronicles* of the Kings of *England*?

And *Henry* was a Man of great Parts and much Experience, and could penetrate very far into hidden Things; yea, so great was the Opinion of his Capacity, that the Measure of his Abilities is preserv'd in the Tower of *London* unto this day: and it behoveth all Men to humble themselves before him, and confess his superior Greatness.

And *Henry* slept with his Fathers, and *Edward* his Son reigned in his stead.

XXI. *EDWARD VI.*

NOW *Edward* was nine Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* six Years and five Months.

And

And he was a pious Prince, and he loved the Truth, and promoted the Reformation which *Henry* his Father had begun.

Howbeit he was cut off as a Flower in its Bud, or as a Rose in the Morning-Sun : his Days also were as a Span, and the Years of his Reign as a Shadow that passeth away : but his Memory smelleth sweet for ever.

And he appointed for his Successor the Lady *Jane Grey*, and she was proclaimed Queen ; but the Party of *Mary* prevailing, *Jane* was beheaded in the Tower of *London*, and *Mary* her Sister reigned in her stead.

XXII. M A R Y.

AND *Mary* adhered to the Church of *Rome*, and she revived the Errors thereof, and restored all the ancient Forms and foolish Ceremonies.

Moreover she was of a cruel Nature, and she persecuted unto Death all who oppos'd her Doctrines, and her Reign stinketh of Blood unto this Day.

Old Men and Children, young Men and Maidens, they also that gave suck, with the Infant

at

at the Breast, she burned at the Stake; and the Fire of Persecution was not quenched all the Days of her Life:

But the Vengeance of the Lord overtook her, and she was torn from the Face of the Earth as a Bramble that choaketh the Field, and her Name is an Abomination.

And from the time that she was crown'd to the Day which the Lord smote her with Sickness, was five Years and four Months, and she dy'd, and *Elizabeth* her Sister reigned in her stead.

XXIII. *E L I Z A B E T H.*

NOW *Elizabeth* was twenty and five Years old when she began to reign, and she reigned over *England* forty and four Years, four Months, and seven Days, and her Mother's Name was *Anna Bullen*.

And she was endow'd with Wisdom from above, and the Spirit of the Almighty gave her Understanding: she chose unto herself wise and able Ministers; she hearken'd unto their Counsels, and she governed her Kingdom with Power and great Glory.

The

The Sea also was subject unto her, and she reigned on the Ocean with a mighty Hand.

Her Admirals compassed the World about, and brought her home Treasures from the uttermost Parts of the Earth.

The Glory of *England* she advanced to its height, and all the Princes of the Earth sought her Love; her Love was fixed on the Happiness of her People, and would not be divided.

The *Æra* of Learning was also in her Reign, and the Genius of Wit shone bright in the Land.

Spencer and *Shakespear*, *Verulam* and *Sidney*, *Raleigh* and *Drake* adorned her Court, and made her Reign immortal.

And woe unto you *Spaniards*, woe unto you, ye haughty Usurpers of the *American* Seas; for at the Lightning of her Eyes ye were destroyed, and at the Breath of her Mouth ye were scatter'd abroad: she came upon your Armado as a Whirlwind, and as a Tempest of Thunder she overwhelmed you in the Sea.

Wisdom and Strength were in her Right Hand, and in her Left were Glory and Wealth.

She spake, and it was War; she waved her Hand, and the Nations dwelt in Peace.

Her

Her Ministers were just, her Counsellors were sage, her Captains were bold, and her Maids of Honour ate Beef-Steaks for Breakfast.

Now the rest of the Acts of *Queen Elizabeth*, and all the glorious Things that she did, are they not written in the Books of the Chronicles of the Kings of *England*?

And *Elizabeth* slept with her Fathers, and she was a Virgin; she tasted not of man, neither submitted she herself unto him all the Days of her Life.

And she was bury'd in the Chapel of King *Henry* the seventh, and *James* of *Scotland* reigned in her stead.

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The End of the First Book of the Chronicles of the KINGS of ENGLAND.